THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development of National Highways and the development of all other roads is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. As regards National Highways, decision has already been taken to involve private sector in the development and maintenance of National Highways passing through various States including the State of Maharashtra.

(b) The guidelines for taking BOT projects on National Highways have already been formulated and circulated to all the State Governments including the State of Maharashtra.

(c) Normally the BOT projects are financed/executed by the entrepreneur himself and hence no specific allocation is made for such projects. Taking up of BOT projects on National Highways in the State of Maharashtra has already started. The costs of land acquisition, shifting of utilties and environmental clearance are the responsibility of the Government.

Operation of inter-State Buses between Delhi and Neighbouring States

2450. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there have been several disputes between the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the neighbouring States in the matter of operating inter-state bus routes;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the steps being contemplated to have some standing arrangements and rules to take care of such disputes; and

(d) what have been the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Cohia Bridge in Goa in National Highway-17

2451. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the works on Cohia Bridge in Goa on National Highways-17;

(b) when tenders for this bridge were called and when the works were allotted;

(c) whether proposals to launch this bridge on BOLT basis was considered; and

(d) how many proposals have been received to build this bridge on BOLT basis?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Colvale bridge for which the construction work is in progress.

(b) Tenders for this bridge were called on 28th March, 1996 and work awarded on 30th January, 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement of Calcutta and Haldia Ports

2452. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans to improve the cargo-handling capacity of the Calcutta and Haldia ports; and

(b) whether programmes are also on the anvil to effect corresponding